

MARSH PERIWINKLE SNAILS

What do they look like?

Marsh Periwinkle Snails have shells that spiral and end at a point. Their shells can range from a dark brown to white in color.

Where do they live?

These little snails live in salt marshes from New England all the way to Texas! They live mostly on the salt marsh's tall grass called smooth cordgrass.

How do they stay safe?

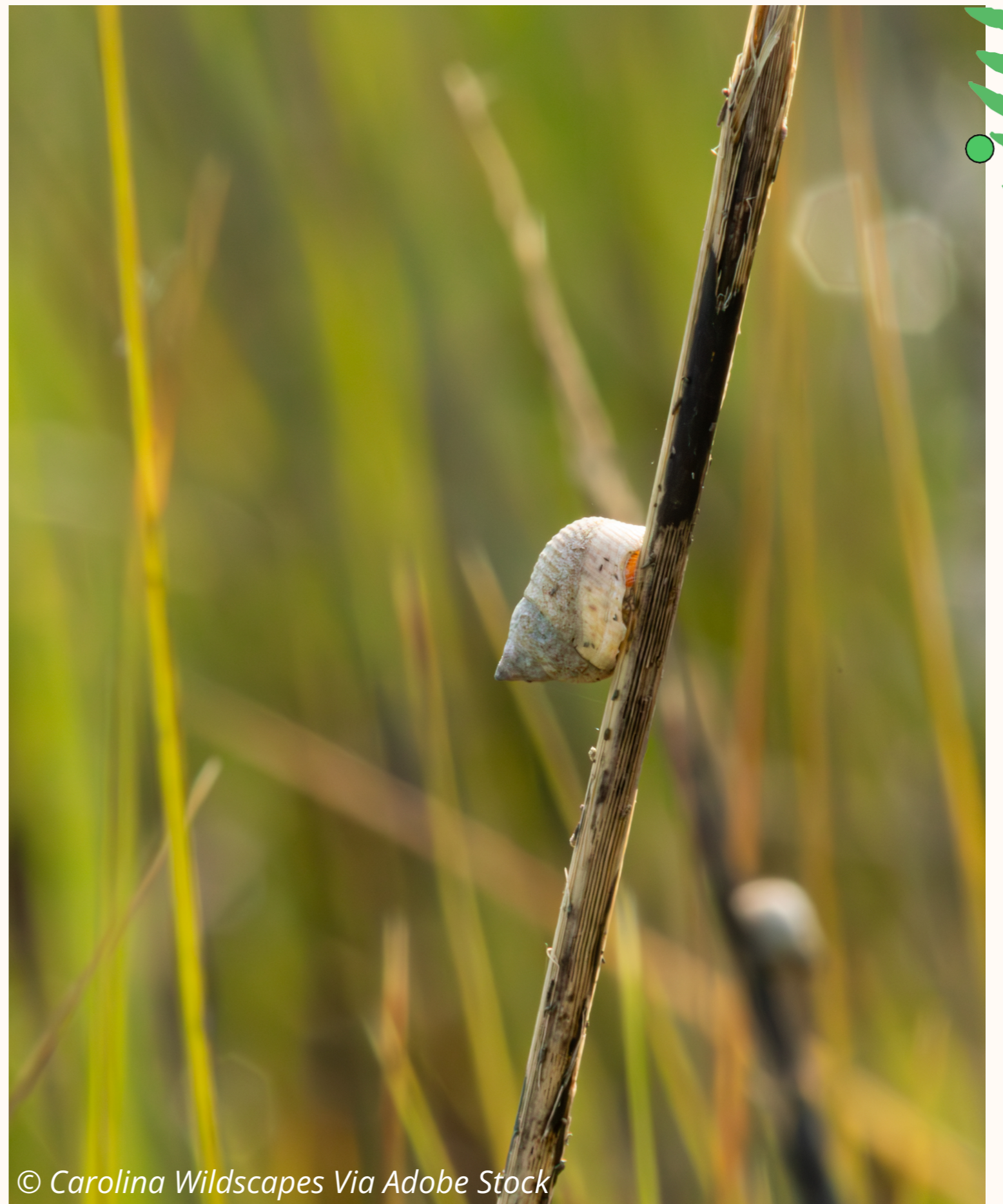
Salt Marshes have a high and low tide. During high tide, they become almost completely submerged. When that happens, predators, like blue crabs, are able to reach them. To keep from becoming dinner, Periwinkle snails will climb up the smooth cordgrass to stay out of reach.

What do they eat?

Periwinkle snails are the salt marshes gardeners. They will grow algae and fungus by chewing holes in the cordgrass and spreading waste in them to grow their food.

FUN FACT:

You can eat periwinkle snails. They are considered a delicacy in Europe.



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How do they help salt marshes?

Marsh periwinkle snails help determine the health of salt marshes. If they start to disappear, we know that there are more pesticides in the water.

How do they hurt salt marshes?

Too many periwinkle snails in a salt marsh can mean too much of the cordgrass will get eaten. It's important that some of the snails get eaten by predators like crabs.

